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GENERAL LEONARD F. ROSS.



LEONARD FULTON ROSS is a native of Illinois, having been born July 18th, 1823, near Lewiston, Fulton county, and was partly named for the county, which had its organization the same year he was born. Ossian M. Ross, his father, a native of Dutchess county, New York, removed to Illinois in 1820. He had been a soldier in the war of 1812, and took part in suppressing the Indian disturbance of 1827, known as the Winnebago war. He was a farmer and stock-raiser, a merchant and general business man, and was the proprietor of the town of Lewiston, where he had a store of general merchandise, and where the Indians were his chief customers. In 1829 the elder Ross removed with his family to Havana, on the Illinois river, of which town he was also proprietor. Here, in addition to his former occupation, he kept a hotel and a ferry across the river, and so continued until his death in January, 1837.

Until fourteen years of age, young Ross was chiefly occupied as clerk in his father's store, running the ferry boat, and, once a week, in looking up his father's cattle and horses, which in summer roamed over the prairie. Up to this time he had had but little schooling, except during one winter spent

in the private school of Chas. E. Blood, a student of Illinois College, who was employed as a private tutor in the Ross family.

After his father's death his mother removed with her family back to Fulton county, and established their home at Canton, where there were better school advantages, and where he was prepared for college under the tutorage of Ralph Perry, another student of Illinois College, and now a retired clergyman of Agawam, Massachusetts. In 1841 he entered Illinois College, where for a year he devoted his time to such studies as were embraced in the usual college course of that day.

Gen. Ross came to Iowa as early as 1842, and can thus lay claim to fellowship with the pioneers of the State. The summer and autumn of that year were spent by him in a tour through southern Wisconsin and eastern Iowa trying to make collections of moneys due the estate of his father, whose death had occurred just before the financial crash of 1837. Those owing him had removed to the new territories north and west of Illinois. Thither young Ross followed them on horse back by way of Galena, to Wisconsin. Failing of success in the latter Territory, he sold his horse, and took steamer down the Mississippi to Fort Madison, Iowa. From here, after a visit to the new town of Nauvoo on the Illinois side of the river, he proceeded to Fairfield, Jefferson County, and thence to the Indian Agency, now Agency City, and from there to the Indian Trading House on the Des Moines river, near the present location of the city of Ottumwa, kept by Capt. William Phelps, an old friend of the Ross family, his wife being a cousin to young Ross. On this occasion he also visited the town of Brighton in Washington county.

His efforts at making collections were not very successful, for those were the days when it took about three bushels of corn to pay the postage on a single letter, but he tarried at the Phelps trading house several months. While he was there a new treaty was entered into with the Indians and a further purchase of lands made. The present site of the city of Des

Moines, known then as the "Raccoon Forks," was selected as the place for a Fort and a new Agency. Through Capt. Phelps' interest, young Ross was permitted to accompany the Agent and the Traders and their cavalry and Indian escorts up the Des Moines river to the "Raccoon Forks," and as a means of transportation for himself he exchanged one of the notes due his father's estate for an Indian pony. It proved a delightful trip to him, the unsurpassed native loveliness of the Des Moines Valley before the trees had been felled and the sod turned by the white man adding its charms to the other surroundings of the journey.

So favorably was he impressed with what he had seen in Iowa, that, on his return to Illinois in November, it was with the firm determination of coming back some day and making Iowa his home. This resolution he faithfully kept, but it took forty years for its consummation—he made Iowa his home in September, 1882, and soon after coming here purchased his present residence, the beautiful "Mount Prospect Farm," half a mile from the corporate limits of Iowa City to the southeast.

The years 1843 and 1844 were spent by Gen. Ross in the study of law in the office of Davidson & Kellogg of Canton, Ill., and in the summer of 1845, having been admitted to the bar, he opened an office for practice in Vermont, Fulton County, and in November of this year he was married to Miss Catherine M. Simms. At Vermont, a little one story cottage was purchased for his home, the consideration being four hundred and twenty-five dollars, only twenty-five dollars of which was paid at the time, the balance being in notes of hand. The population of the town of Vermont being chiefly composed of members of the Society of Friends, whose avoidance of litigation among themselves, and whose pacific influence over others is proverbial, the young lawyer's business was at first mostly confined to the drawing of deeds and trying occasional cases in justices' courts outside of the peaceful influence of the Quakers at Vermont. Nevertheless, one of the happiest years of his life, as Gen. Ross now avers, was spent among

these "peaceful, benevolent, kind-hearted and thrifty people." "I never think of them," he adds, "but to bless them." "And had it not been for the Mexican war," he continues, "I might still be living in my little white cottage surrounded by these best of God's people."

The Mexican war changed the whole course of his life. "American blood had been shed on American soil by a foreign foe." Congress declared that war had been inaugurated by the act of Mexico. A call was made for volunteers, and it seemed that nearly every one wanted to go. Gen. Ross's eldest brother, L. W. Ross, who had had some experience in military matters by service in the Winnebago and Blackhawk wars, organized a company, and his youngest brother, Pike C. Ross, had become a member of it. Our Ross also joined and was elected Orderly Sergeant, but before the company was formally accepted the three Regiments called for from Illinois were full. Col. E. D. Baker was then a member of Congress from Illinois, and as he obtained permission to raise another Regiment, the company containing the three Ross brothers was received and afterwards became Company K of the 4th Regiment Illinois Volunteers. As there was some doubt about the 4th Regiment being accepted, Gen. Ross did not go into camp with the company, but learning soon afterwards that the Regiment had been mustered into the service and would in a short time leave for the seat of war, he proceeded at once to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, the rendezvous of the Regiment, and reached there the day before it started for New Orleans. The office of Orderly Sergeant in the company had been filled by appointment before mustering into service, so he took his place in the ranks as a private soldier. Before he was regularly mustered into service, his brother Pike called him aside and delivered a very kind and brotherly lecture. He thought two brothers from the same family were enough for the army, and he considered it the duty of our Ross to go home and attend to matters there, but the latter persisted in going.

The 4th Illinois, with all its Rosses, left Jefferson Barracks July 23d, 1846, and went by steamboat to New Orleans. Here it was transferred to sailing vessels and landed at Brazos Santiago about August 7th, and soon debarked for an encampment on the Rio Grande. It was at this first encampment that Col. Baker was so severely wounded in trying to suppress a riot in one of the Georgia regiments.

While encamped on the Rio Grande, vacancies occurred in the offices of First and Brevet Second Lieutenants of Company K. In the Mexican war there were three Lieutenants to each company. The extra one was a *Brevet* Second Lieutenant, usually called Third Lieutenant. The First and Third Lieutenants of Company K were compelled to resign on account of severe illness, and on an election being ordered, Gen. Ross was chosen First Lieutenant of his Company.

After changing camp twice on the Rio Grande, moving each time further up the river, the Regiment was ordered to Camargo, and reached there about the middle of September. Up to this time the Regiment had belonged to the command of Gen. Shields, but at Camargo it was placed under the command of Gen. Pillow, and Shields was transferred to another field. The Fourth remained at Camargo nearly three months. Early in December it was ordered to Matamoras, and went into a camp known as Camp Patterson, situated ten or twelve miles south-west of the city.

While in camp near Matamoras, the Captain of Company K, who, as before stated, was the brother of our Ross, was called to the city on official business, which left the latter, now First Lieutenant, in command of the Company, a responsibility which had not before fallen upon him. There was in the Company, a soldier, an elderly man, who had always been detailed for hospital duty from the first arrival of the Regiment in Mexico, and had been excused from all other duty. At this time, however, the sick of the Regiment had been left in general hospital, and in making detail for guard he was put on the list. On being notified he flatly refused to perform guard

duty. So he was arrested, placed in confinement, and his place supplied by another. The next morning, Lieutenant Ross sent him word that if he would go on guard and perform his duty he would be released from confinement and exempt from further punishment, but his reply was that the guard house was not an unpleasant place and he proposed remaining there. He was allowed to remain. About noon Gen. Pillow's Orderly called upon Lieutenant Ross and said that the General wished the Lieutenant to call at his Headquarters. Upon obeying the order he found that the culprit was there before him and had made a fair statement of the cause of the trouble. The General, addressing Lieutenant Ross, said, "You are Lieutenant Ross, I believe. This man, by his own confession, has wilfully disobeyed your orders. I now order you, sir, to have him placed in a conspicuous place in your company quarters in the hot sun, have a flour barrel put over his head, and keep him there without anything to eat or drink until released by my order." Ross took occasion to explain to the General that the soldier had been very faithful as an attendant at the hospital, that he considered himself exempt from all other duties, and that if informed by the Commanding General of his obligations as a soldier there would be no need of punishment. Upon this, the General became quite excited and very emphatic in his manner and declared that Ross should see the order rigidly enforced or suffer the consequences himself of disobedience. The order was executed, but the man having the sympathies of his comrades many devices were resorted to by them to lighten his punishment which were winked at by the kind-hearted Lieutenant, who had no option but to carry out the orders of his superior.

Pillow was ever unpopular with the Illinois soldiers, and was nick-named by them "the Corporal." His unnecessary severity in this and other cases rendered him an object of universal dislike. So much so that the Fourth Illinois became unendurable to him and he to them. For this reason the Regiment was soon transferred to the command of General Quitman.

At Camp Patterson, Lieutenant Ross suffered his first and only severe illness while in Mexico, which prevented him accompanying his Regiment when it started for Victoria in the latter part of December. After remaining in the Matamoras hospital about a week he was so far improved in health as to be enabled to report to the Commandant of the post that he was ready for duty and would join his company at the earliest opportunity. It was but a short time before he received notice to get ready to go through to Victoria as the bearer of dispatches to Generals Taylor and Patterson. It took him but an hour to get ready and report at headquarters for duty. There was some little delay in making up his cavalry escort, which was composed of young men, mostly boys belonging to Kentucky and Tennessee cavalry regiments, who, like himself, were just out of the hospital. When the outfit was completed he found it to consist of twenty mounted men, an old Mexican as guide, and a young German as interpreter. All were provided with three days' rations for themselves and horses. Ross himself was furnished with a fine government horse for his own use and fifty dollars to defray expenses after the rations were exhausted. He was handed a sealed package for General Taylor and another for General Patterson. Also written instructions to proceed with them to Victoria with all possible dispatch and to destroy the papers rather than have them fall into the hands of the enemy.

After the first half day's ride one of his men became so ill that he had to be sent back to Matamoras, and the trip was made with the remaining nineteen men, reaching Victoria, a distance of three hundred miles, in six days. Of the two Generals for whom he had dispatches General Patterson was the first found. On reading the one addressed him he remarked, "And you have also something for General Taylor." Ross replied that he had, and would proceed at once to his headquarters. "But," said the General, "You must be very tired after your long ride. What you have for General Taylor I will send over by my orderly. You may dismiss your

men and report to the commanding officer of your regiment." This to Ross was a sad disappointment. He had promised himself much satisfaction in calling on General Taylor and presenting dispatches to the man who in less than five months in the previous year had fought and won the three great battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma and Monterey, and whose fame was world-wide. The disappointment was great indeed. There was this satisfaction, however. He and his gallant regiment were now a part of the army of the renowned General, and he should soon see him, and perhaps some day know him. This was about the 14th of January, 1847. The next day, while calling upon some of his acquaintances, he learned that General Taylor had moved out early that morning in a northerly direction. Two days later General Patterson, to whose command the 4th Illinois now belonged, moved south, destined for Tampico. General Taylor returned to Monterey, and a month later fought the terribly destructive battle of Buena Vista. Lieutenant Ross never had the satisfaction of seeing him.

A march of two hundred and fifty miles south brought the 4th Illinois to Tampico, where it found its old General Shields in command of the city, when it soon again became a part of his command, and so continued until he was wounded at the battle of Cerro Gordo.

It must have been about the 1st of February when Lieutenant Ross arrived at Tampico with his regiment, and they were encamped near the city until March 7th, when they embarked on the ship Sharon for Vera Cruz. They were delayed till the 9th before they set sail, and then there was no wind to move the vessel. On the 12th they were but eighteen miles from Tampico, but the next night a heavy wind arose and on the morning of the 14th they were twenty-five miles south of Vera Cruz. The ship began beating up the coast, but before it reached harbor another severe storm compelled it to go again to sea. For four days their transport was driven about the Gulf, out of sight of land, by the fierce winds. On the

19th the storm subsided, and in the afternoon the Sharon, with the 4th Illinois, was safe in Sacrificias Harbor, three miles south of Vera Cruz. Cannonading had been heard the day before by those on board the Sharon. On landing on March 20th, the 4th Illinois learned that General Scott, with the main body of his army, had been there about a week, and the city was encircled by our troops. The 4th Illinois was assigned a position in the line of investment on the old Orizaba road, and about one mile and a half from the city. The work of erecting batteries was in progress, and the American working parties were constantly under fire from the forts of the city. On the 22d some of the United States mortars were in position and opened on the city and kept up a constant fire all night. The Mexican forts ceased firing about dark. On the morning of the 23d the firing was brisk on both sides. Orders were given for five companies of the 4th Illinois to go as a working party to aid in constructing what was called the Naval Battery, three other companies to go to guard the men while at work. Lieutenant Ross's company was one of those detailed as a guard. The working party was employed during the night in mounting guns and digging away a sand-hill behind which the Naval Battery had been erected. This battery consisted of six heavy guns, four of which were sixty-eight pound Paxon guns.

Before daylight of the 24th the sand-hill had been hauled down, and the six guns were in position and pointing towards the city, with no intervening object. But the besiegers were not ready to begin work with this battery. It was so near the city and so exposed to the fire of the city forts that it could not be safely approached even from the rear excepting by night, and during the previous night but little ammunition had been brought to the battery, not enough to last during the day. Brush and boughs of trees were placed in front of our guns in order, if possible, to prevent discovery of the battery until the next day, when it was expected a full supply of ammunition would be received. So the eight companies of

the 4th Illinois and the sailors who were to man the battery were lying quietly and securely behind the sand-hills awaiting the return of darkness.

The morning was wearing away, and up to ten o'clock the Americans were unmolested, but at that time a cannon ball whistled over their heads. Then another and another. The Mexicans had evidently just discovered that one of the sand-hills had undergone a change during the night and were trying to ascertain what it meant. Soon all the forts in the city seemed to be firing at the sand-hill of the 4th Illinois. The brave sailors could stand it no longer. They jumped up in front of their guns, tore away the brush, ran out their guns and returned the fire. It soon became quite interesting. Our large guns when discharged shook the hills, and those around them could plainly hear the balls crashing through the walls and buildings of the city. The firing on our side was kept up until 2 o'clock p. m., when the ammunition was exhausted. During the contest four sailors were killed and others wounded. The Mexican forts continued their fire on the battery until night, but with little damage. When dark that evening the companies of the 4th Illinois were ordered back to their regimental quarters, and a force consisting of three full regiments took their places to guard the Naval Battery during the night.

Early on the morning of March 25th the United States batteries opened on the city in earnest. The infantry had nothing to do after their guards had been stationed but to stand out on the surrounding sand-hills and witness the bombardment of the city. It was a grand sight and was kept up until the 27th of March when a proposal of surrender was made and the city and castle were in possession of our troops.

After the surrender, Lieutenant Ross obtained permission to visit the city with some other officers. On entering at the main gate, one of the first persons he met was a private of his company. Knowing that private soldiers had not yet been granted permission to visit the city, he went to him

directly to ascertain what he was doing there and how he had gained admission. The man was in charge of a guard, moving toward the guard-house. He informed the Lieutenant that when the surrender was made he and two or three others of his company had found holes in the city wall made by our cannon, and that they had gone in to get, if possible, a good dinner, and that his comrades were already in the guard-house. Lieutenant Ross called upon the officer of the guard, and having explained the situation obtained an order to have all of his men turned over to him. Having reached the guard-house Ross called for all who belonged to Company K 4th Illinois, to march out into the street. To his surprise twenty-five or thirty men came forth and all claimed to belong to his company. Among them were representatives of all arms of the service and several sailors. The officer of the guard smilingly observed that pretty nearly all of Ross's company seemed to be in the guard-house. He had to confess that there were more of them than he had expected, and promised to see them out of the city, when they would join their comrades. They were then turned over to him, taken to the gates, and being ordered to report to their commands, all left in a very happy mood.

After the surrender, the American army could not move because of lack of transportation, for about ten days or two weeks. While awaiting orders to move our officers and men amused themselves as best they could. They visited different portions of the city to see the terrible effect of their cannon-ading, and commissioned officers were permitted to go in boats half a mile in front of the city and examine the castle of San Juan d' Ulloa. It was surprising to see how many commissioned officers the 4th Illinois contained. Some entire companies, if judged by the number occasionally found in officers' uniforms, were entirely composed of commissioned officers. An American theatrical company followed the army, and upon the surrender American plays were performed in the theatre of Vera Cruz. They were mainly attended by

officers and soldiers of the army, but occasionally a Mexican or the representative of some foreign government might be seen in the audience. Many of the actors were soldiers from the ranks of our army, and at every performance were heard some of our national songs. "The Star Spangled Banner" would set the soldiers wild with huzzas, or "Sweet Home" would melt them to tears.

It was about the 10th¹ of April before the 4th Illinois got away from Vera Cruz. Information had come that Santa Anna with a large army was strongly fortified at or near Cerro Gordo, some forty or fifty miles distant. The 4th Illinois reached the encampment of General Twiggs at Rio del Plan about the 13th, and expected to make an attack the next morning, but the regiment was delayed nearly a week waiting the arrival of more troops from Vera Cruz. Several reconnoitering parties went out while the troops were waiting, in order to learn the exact location of the enemy and the nature of his works. With twenty men detailed from the 4th Illinois, Lieutenant Ross was directed to accompany and protect Generals Shields, Colonel Baker and Major Harris while they made an examination of the enemy's works on the extreme right. While on this expedition the party was for a while under fire.

On the afternoon of April 17th the regular troops engaged the enemy on an unfortified hill lying between the camp of the 4th Illinois and the main hill of Cerro Gordo. To the summit of this high, steep hill two cannons were pulled that night by Shield's Brigade who were compelled to stop often to remove the bodies of Mexicans that were left dead upon the field from the engagement of that day. In establishing these cannons the 4th Illinois took a prominent and active part.

After this severe work, which lasted nearly all night, the troops had but two or three hours rest before forming to go into battle. The impression was quite general that Shield's Brigade, of which the 4th Illinois formed a part, was to

compose a portion of the force for taking the main hill by assault, but this did not prove to be true. As Shields's Brigade moved out from behind the hill on which it had hauled the cannon the previous night, Cerro Gordo was in plain sight to those composing it, who were treated to a generous supply of ball and grape-shot. Instead of going up the main hill, the Brigade was led around the base. About the time the Brigade became exposed to the fire of the forces on Cerro Gordo, General Harney, who led the storming party, passed down from the hill in our possession and began to ascend Cerro Gordo. The firing from the heights was then divided between the forces commanded by Generals Harney and Shields, respectively. About the time that General Harney had captured the main hill, General Shields had turned the enemy's left flank, had reached the rear of the Mexican army, and was engaged with their reserve forces and General Santa Anna's body-guard. In crossing an open field that was swept by a Mexican battery General Shields fell, as was supposed, mortally wounded. Colonel Baker then took command of the Brigade. The battery was captured and the fighting soon finished.

Many prisoners, a large amount of specie, and General Santa Anna's headquarters were taken. Many soldiers secured trophies from General Santa Anna's tent. One of the 4th Illinois took home his wooden leg.

After leaving a guard to care for prisoners and captured property, Colonel Baker ordered the Brigade to pursue that portion of the enemy which had escaped. Seeing a number of cavalry horses without riders, the volunteers mounted them. All who could do so secured horses for the pursuit. About this time General Twiggs made his appearance in their midst, and joined in the pursuit, but apparently with none of his command with him. There were not more than four or five hundred men in this pursuing party. They pushed on at a double-quick rate, and must have gone ten or twelve miles when they came upon a large force in their front, and received a fire from the rear guard. Bodies of the enemy were seen

to the right and left. A halt was ordered, and while the men were lying on the ground resting, a large cavalry force was seen in the rear coming at full speed. It looked as if the pursuers stood a fair chance of being captured. The men were ordered to form a square to resist the cavalry, but before this was done it was discovered that they were United States cavalry, and they were not resisted, but passed on and followed the enemy to the gates of Jalapa, capturing many more prisoners. The pursuing party from Shields's Brigade, among whom was Lieutenant Ross, encamped for the night near the place where they had first halted. In the morning General Patterson passed them with an escort of cavalry. As Lieutenant Ross still held possession of his captured horse, he asked and obtained permission to leave his company and join with the advance. About a mile from the city of Jalapa General Patterson was met by the Alcalde, an interpreter, and one or two others in a carriage. General Patterson was informed that there were no soldiers in the city, none but private citizens, women and children, and that the Alcalde had come out to ask protection of the American army. In substance, General Patterson replied that the Americans were not there to make war upon, or in any way disturb the Mexican people; that it was the Mexican army and government with which they were contending that citizens not in arms would never be molested or troubled by American soldiers, and that if he would turn about and lead the way to the city their protection would begin from that moment. General Patterson and the troops with him followed the Alcalde to the city, of which General Patterson took possession. This was April 19th, and the 4th Illinois remained there until May 5th. General Scott was waiting the arrival of new troops before going further. The time of the 4th Illinois would expire July 4th, about the time he expected to be ready to use it. So it was ordered home to be discharged. The Regiment, including Lieutenant Ross, reached Vera Cruz on its return May 10th, sailed for New Orleans on the 15th, reaching there on

the 24th. It left New Orleans May 29th, and reached home about the 15th of June.

The good reports of Lieutenant Ross's gallantry and fortitude in Mexico as a soldier and officer of the 4th Illinois which reached his home in advance of himself, suggested him to his party friends, the Democrats, as a candidate for Probate Judge, of which he learned on his arrival at St. Louis. He was duly nominated, and at the election the following August was elected. He at once removed to Lewiston, the county seat, and entered upon the duties of his first civil office.

At the expiration of his term in 1849 he was a candidate for the office of County Clerk, and was elected without opposition for a term of four years.

At that time much of the tillable land in Fulton as well as of all the counties of the "military tract," was owned by non-residents, mostly land companies located in the cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia. These companies were represented by agents in the west, most of whom were located at Quincy and Peoria, Illinois. These western agents visited all the county seats once or twice a year to pay taxes and attend land sales. In this way Lieutenant Ross was brought into frequent contact with them, and soon drifted into the land business. He bought and sold quite extensively, and before the close of his four years as County Clerk, he was also engaged in farming and connected with a mercantile firm located at Ipava, Illinois. He was afterwards engaged in mercantile pursuits at Lewiston, which he continued up to April, 1861.

Lieutenant Ross was a member of two National Conventions of the Democratic parties, those of 1852 and 1856. These conventions he attended in the interest of Stephen A. Douglas, who was then a prominent candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency. In 1838, when a school boy at Canton, the first political speech Lieutenant Ross ever heard was made by Mr. Douglas, then a candidate for Congress. From that date until the death of Douglas he was one of his firm adherents. Although not a member of the

National Convention of 1860, Lieutenant Ross was at Baltimore when the Southern Democrats having nominated Breckenridge at Charleston, the Northern wing of the party placed Douglas in nomination. At that time Lieutenant Ross heard leading Democrats of the South declare that if Lincoln or Douglas were elected he would have to make his way to the Capitol through "seas of blood." The Northern Democrats replied that one of them would doubtless be elected, and whoever should be fairly elected must be President of the entire Union, though he did pass through "seas of blood."

About the close of his term of office as County Clerk, Lieutenant Ross aided in organizing the Fulton County Agricultural Board, and was its first Secretary and afterwards its President.

In the spring of 1861 the contagion of the war fever came upon the country and aroused the martial ardor of all. It was impossible for one imbued with patriotic impulses and military inclinations like Lieutenant Ross to escape it. Accordingly, in the latter part of April, 1861, he organized the first company that went from Fulton County to the War of the Rebellion, which became Company H of the 17th Illinois Infantry. Soon after going into camp at Peoria, May 10th, the Regiment elected him its Colonel and he was commissioned as such by the Governor of Illinois. After one month spent at Peoria in drilling and preparing for service, Colonel Ross and his Regiment moved to Alton, Illinois, where a month more was spent. About the middle of July the Regiment was ordered to St. Charles, Missouri, thence to Warrenton, and from there to St. Louis, where it became a part of the Command of General Fremont, and accompanied him, August 1st, on his expedition by way of the Mississippi river to Cairo, and August 3d, the Regiment went into camp at Bird's Point, Missouri. The 17th, was here engaged for about two weeks in building fortifications, was then ordered to a landing on the Mississippi river about thirty miles below St. Louis known as "Sulphur Springs," thence by rail to Ironton, Missouri, where

it encamped for a short time, and where Colonel Ross, about August 20th, for the first time met General U. S. Grant, who had recently been appointed Brigadier General. From here it moved to Fredericktown, about twenty miles distant, and garrisoned the place about a week.

The 17th having been attached to the Command of General Prentiss now moved under that officer to Jackson, and thence to Cape Girardeau; the latter place they reached September 2d, and here Colonel Ross had his second meeting with General Grant, then in command of the troops in south-east Missouri.

About September 10th, the 17th was removed to the Kentucky shore opposite Cairo, and aided in constructing Fort Holt. General Grant was then in command at Cairo, and about September 14th Colonel Ross was by him placed in command of a Brigade and directed to occupy Elliott's Mills, a point about half way between Fort Holt and Columbus. His force consisted of the 17th and 19th Illinois, the 2nd and 7th Iowa Infantry, a section of artillery, and about half a company of cavalry. This place, which was about twelve miles from Columbus, was occupied by his Brigade three or four days, and was named Camp Crittenden.

On assuming command of his Brigade, Colonel Ross issued the following orders:

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP CRITTENDEN, }
September 16th, 1861. }

BRIGADE ORDER }
No. I. }

The following orders will be observed for the government and discipline of this Camp from and after the 16th inst:

- 1st. Until further orders the present encampment will be known as Camp Crittenden.
- 2d. Adjutant A. H. Ryan, of the 17th Regiment, is hereby appointed Acting Assistant Adjutant General, and will take rank and be obeyed accordingly.
- 3d. Quartermaster S. E. Forsh, 7th Iowa, is hereby appointed Brigade Quartermaster, and will take rank and be honored accordingly.
- 4th. Surgeon Marsh, of the 2d Iowa, is hereby appointed Brigade Surgeon and will take rank and be obeyed accordingly.
- 5th. One commissioned officer must be present at the roll calls of their

companies, and all commissioned and non-commissioned officers at all company and battalion drills. They will also give their personal supervision to squad drills and see that every private is instructed in the school of the soldier.

6th. Chaplains of Regiments will make suitable arrangements for reading the Holy Scriptures and other religious exercises on the Sabbath day. I would earnestly request that all officers and privates attend Divine service in camp every Sabbath.

7th. Captains are responsible for the cleanliness of their men, and for that purpose they will see that the members of their respective companies perform their ablutions at least twice a week.

8th. Company officers will carefully examine the food of their men, and see that it is of good quality, properly cooked, and set out in a neat and cleanly manner.

9th. No hawkers or peddlers will be permitted to carry on any trade within the Camp without first getting permission in writing of the commanding officer of the Brigade.

10th. No fire-arms shall be discharged within two miles of the Camp save for the purpose of alarm, and the commissioned officers of the several companies will be held responsible for the due enforcement of this order.

11th. The arms of the relieved guard will be discharged under the personal supervision of the officer of the guard and between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock, a. m. The discharging of arms at any other time will be considered evidence of an attack, and the command will immediately prepare for action.

12th. No gambling of any description will be permitted in Camp, and the commanding officer earnestly urges the discontinuance of card playing of any kind.

13th. For the efficiency and honor of the service as well as for the general health of the men of this command, the Commandant of this post hereby prohibits drunkenness under the penalties of court-martial, and recommends that the use of all kinds of intoxicating liquors be avoided among both officers and men.

14th. The Captains of Companies furnishing men for Brigade guard will see that dinner, supper and breakfast is provided for the men on such duty at the guard house. The men on brigade guard will not be permitted to leave the guard house to return to their quarters for meals.

15th. The Captains of Companies will see that the following articles of war are read to and impressed upon the minds of their respective commands, to-wit: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 33, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 97, 99.

16th. The commanding officer desires to call attention to the extravagant waste of ammunition by the members of this Brigade, manifest from the continued firing within the hearing of the Camp. The army regulations make the individuals to whom issues of ammunition are made, personally accountable for its waste. He therefore wishes to impress upon the officers of the various commands, both commissioned and non-commissioned, the necessity of carefully inspecting the ammunition boxes of their men and personally super-

vising the careful and economical use of the same, and they will see that the arms of their respective companies are at all times in good order and ready for use.

17th. No private property shall be killed, injured or destroyed by the men of this Command, and it is particularly enjoined upon all Field, Staff and Company officers to prevent trespassing upon private property, and they shall, upon view or information of any such trespass, arrest all such persons and cause them to be tried by a court martial. No infraction of this order shall be tolerated for a moment.

18th. No regularly detailed guard shall transfer his duties to any person, "comrade in arms," under any circumstances, without first obtaining the written consent of the officer of the guard, who will himself be personally responsible for any dereliction of duty growing out of such transfer.

19th. To the end that perfect safety and security may be insured to this command, the Commandant of this post desires to impress upon the sentinels the importance and responsibility of their duties, and to this end the officers of the guard, immediately after guard-mounting and prior to the relief of the old guard, will read or cause to be read the following sections pertaining to guard duty and duties of sentinels on post: Sections 404 to 419 inclusive, 570 to 574 inclusive, 611 to 616 inclusive, and will explain the same fully.

20th. The officers of the day will be held responsible for the officers of the guard and its discharge of duty, and under no circumstances will a deviation from prescribed regulations be permitted.

21st. The Commandant of this post will enforce the above rules, and no shirking in their enforcement will be tolerated.

By order,

L. F. Ross,

Col. Commanding.

A. H. RYAN,

Acting A. A. G.

On submission of these orders to General Grant, with his own hand he wrote the following complimentary approval of them as his endorsement:

HEADQUARTERS, DIST. S. E. Mo., }
Cairo, September 17th, 1861. }

Colonel:—Your orders meet with my entire approval. I hope you will see them enforced.

Yours,

U. S. GRANT,

Brig.-Gen. Com.

To COLONEL L. F. ROSS,

Commanding Fort Jefferson.

On the 15th the 19th Illinois was detached and sent east. On the 17th Colonel Ross was directed to fall back to old Fort Jefferson, about five miles from Fort Holt, and to occupy Elliott's Mills (Camp Crittenden) with a picket guard only,

and soon after was again at Fort Holt. This proved a very unhealthy location, and many of the men were on the sick list. As a sanitary measure, Colonel Ross was ordered to embark his Regiment, the 17th Illinois, on steamers for Cape Girardeau, a more healthy location, where those who were able aided in the erection of fortifications for the defense of the place, which at this time was under the command of Colonel Plummer, of the 11th Missouri Infantry. By him Colonel Ross was informed that Jeff Thompson had passed up west of the Cape, and was then near Fredericktown, and that he had been directed to fit out a force and drive him out or capture him. Colonel Ross expressed a wish to accompany him on the expedition. On the 17th he received notice to be ready to accompany him at any moment. The next morning they started on the march to Jackson and on the 20th encamped within twelve miles of Fredericktown. Their force consisted of about fifteen hundred men—parts of three regiments—11th Missouri, Colonel Plummer, 17th Illinois, Colonel Ross, 20th Illinois, Colonel Marsh, two companies of cavalry and a section of artillery. Thompson was reported to have about two thousand men, and was still in the vicinity of Fredericktown.

As Colonel Ross had spent a week at this place with his Regiment in August and had some acquaintance there, he took a small cavalry force of six or eight men, and pushed on to ascertain the position of the enemy by the time the command should reach town. When within a mile of the town he learned that the enemy had gone and that it was occupied by Union troops. Arriving at the town he found that Colonel Carlin, of the 38th Illinois, was there with two or three regiments, and on finding him at the hotel, Colonel Ross reported to him the approach of the forces from Cape Girardeau. An hour later Colonel Plummer arrived and held a short conference with Carlin. After this he went to Colonel Ross in the street, where the latter was awaiting him, and stated that Carlin ranked him as a Colonel and claimed the command of the entire forces. At the same time Plummer insisted that, as

the question of rank had arisen, and as Colonel Ross ranked both of them, it was his duty to take command himself, and accordingly Colonel Ross assumed command of all the forces present, and then ordered Colonel Plummer to take such part of the command as he desired and pursue Jeff Thompson. He replied that he wished the 17th Illinois, Colonel Ross's Regiment, to take the advance. After starting the cavalry to the front as an advance guard, Colonel Ross marched out of town to the south in the direction Thompson was said to have taken. Colonel Ross had not proceeded over a mile before he met Captain Stewart of the cavalry force returning, who stated that things did not look just right at the front. On Colonel Ross going forward with him a few rods to the brow of a hill Stewart called attention to a clump of bushes that had the appearance of a mask for a battery. A few men were also discovered moving about on the opposite hill, near the point where they supposed the battery to be located. A small creek with narrow bottom lands intervened. On the north side of the creek was a corn field. Colonel Ross at once filed his Regiment to the left, passed out of the road into a field, and then deployed three companies, A, F and B, as skirmishers, and ordered them to pass through the corn field. Lieutenant White's section of artillery was advanced to the brow of the hill and directed to open fire on what was supposed to be a battery on the opposite hill. He had fired but two shots before the fire of Colonel Ross's forces was returned by the supposed battery, and it was evident that a fight was at hand. Colonel Ross at once started to his own Regiment, but before he had reached it, the men on the skirmish line had met the enemy in the corn field and had begun the fight with small arms. Colonel Ross, with the remainder of his Regiment moved rapidly to the front in line of battle until he reached the skirmish line, and the entire Regiment was engaged. During the engagement, other infantry troops—the 20th Illinois and part of the 11th Missouri—formed on the left of the 17th Illinois and opened fire on the enemy. The left Company (B)

of the 17th Illinois, which was started out as skirmishers, was so far to the left that it turned the flank of the enemy and poured a destructive fire on their right flank. The enemy now began to retreat from the corn field. Colonel Ross with the 17th advanced at "double quick" and took position behind the fence that had at first sheltered the main force of the enemy. As they retreated from that part of the field the fire of the Union troops proved very destructive. The advance of Company B of the 17th Illinois was rapid, and having charged upon and captured the enemy's battery, the victory was complete and the enemy in full retreat. The cavalry now came up and pursued the scattered and fleeing forces of General Thompson for some distance, but in so doing sustained severe loss. The 17th Illinois in this battle suffered a loss of one killed and twenty-seven wounded. Only four hundred and twenty-six members of the regiment were engaged, the remainder having been left as camp guards or sick in hospital. None of the 17th Illinois, except Colonel Ross, had ever before been in battle, but all behaved like old and well-tried soldiers. In making pursuit, the cavalry, a portion of the 2d Indiana Cavalry, sustained about the same loss as the 17th Illinois had met with in the battle. Aside from these losses there were but five or six wounded on the Union side. During the engagement Colonel Ross did not see or hear from Colonel Plummer, except to receive a request from him that a company of the 17th Illinois should be sent to the rear to guard a battery. Company A, having been engaged from the beginning, was detached and sent to the rear.

The battle of Fredericktown, compared with others that followed, was an unimportant affair, but it was one of the first decisive actions gained in the West. As it was fought mainly by the 17th Illinois, and as all the men of that Regiment engaged behaved so handsomely, it was afterwards generally referred to as the fight of the "17th boys," and the commander, Colonel Ross, cherishes a feeling of pride and endearment towards all the members of this, his own Regiment, for their gallant and soldierly bravery.

Colonel Ross with his Regiment started on the 23rd of October on his return to Cape Girardeau, where he arrived on the 25th. Having on November 4th received orders from General Halleck, at St. Louis, to move out and make a demonstration on Bloomfield, the next day he marched twenty miles and went into camp at "Round Ponds." The next day he was ordered back again with his entire force, except the 10th Iowa under Colonel Perczel. He reached the Cape on the 7th, but the next day was ordered to make another demonstration toward Bloomfield. He moved out again twenty miles, where he received news of the battle of Belmont, and then returned again to the Cape, November 10th, his movements, the importance of which he was at the time ignorant of, being ordered to keep as many of the enemy as possible from Belmont, while General Grant attacked that place.

On the 29th he was assigned to the command of the post of Cape Girardeau, and the next day sent Colonel Wood with one hundred and fifty men on an expedition to Benton. December was mostly spent in drilling and other preparations for the field. On the 14th of the month, by invitation of General Grant, with two companies he went by the Steamer Illinois to Cairo, and attended a review there, and on the 16th attended reviews and inspections at Bird's Point and Fort Holt, and returned to Cape Girardeau. On the 18th he had a review and inspection of his own troops at Cape Girardeau, participated in by Generals Sweeney, Sturgis and Van Rensselaer, and on their invitation accompanied them on the Steamer Memphis to St. Louis, from whence he returned to the Cape on the 20th. From this date till January 30th, 1862, he remained at Cape Girardeau in command of that post and the troops there, the time being spent mainly in strengthening the defences of the place, in drilling and preparing the command for more active service. Several expeditions were sent into the interior of the country in pursuit of straggling bands of Thompson's command. On the 15th three expeditions were sent out, one to Benton in command of Major

Smith, one to Bloomfield under Captain Murdock, and the third to Dallas, commanded by Major Rawalt. Orders were given by Colonel Ross to those in command of these expeditions to take all prisoners found who had been in arms against the government and who had not yet taken the oath of allegiance, and to take their property, slaves included, to be used in aid of the Union cause. Again on January 25th Major Smith with two hundred cavalry was sent to Benton and below to capture a lot of rebels who had been firing on passing steamboats on the Mississippi river. Colonel Wood with two hundred infantry, and Major Rawalt with the remainder of the cavalry, were sent to co-operate with Smith, and on the 28th other forces were sent in the same direction on the same errand. These forays into sections of the country occupied by the enemy resulted in the capture of many prisoners, who were generally released on parole, with a pledge to return and deliver themselves upon demand. In this way many who had been coerced into the rebel service were enabled to return to their homes and remain there.

At the beginning of the Rebellion many problems difficult of solution arose respecting the treatment by the military of citizens and their property at the seat of war. The following letters of instruction from General Grant to Colonel Ross in reply to the latter's application for directions from superior authority, but at the same time declaring his own opinions, show that their views on some of the most important of these coincided, and that they were views which, though puzzling many at the beginning, were substantially those held by all loyal citizens at the close of the conflict.

We here copy the letter of instructions from General Grant under which Colonel Ross at this time acted. As will be seen it left to the latter a large discretion.

COL. L. F. ROSS,	HEADQUARTERS, DIST. S. E. MO. }
Commanding U. S. Forces, Cape Girardeau, Mo.	CAIRO, DECEMBER 4th, 1861. }

Colonel:—Your communication of yesterday is received and the following instructions are given in reply:

You will require Colonel Murdock to give over to the Quartermasters all property taken by them from citizens of Missouri. Such as may be reclaimed by owners you will direct to be returned unless taken from persons directly giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

When you know of depredations being committed by armed bodies of rebels within reach of you, you can use your own discretion about the propriety of suppressing them. I know your views about allowing troops to interpret the confiscation laws; therefore no instructions are required on this point; one thing I will add: In cases of outrageous marauding I would fully justify shooting the perpetrators down if caught in the act. I mean our own men as well as the enemy.

When you are satisfied that Thompson's men are coming in with honest intentions you may swear them, but in this matter I would advise great caution. As a rule it would be better to keep them entirely out of your camp, or confine them as prisoners of war. A few examples of confinement would prevent others from coming in.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,

Brig. Gen. Com.

Here also are General Grant's instructions through his aid, to Colonel Ross on the perplexing subject of the negro.

COL. L. F. ROSS,

Commanding U. S. Forces,
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

HEADQUARTERS DIST. OF CAIRO, }
CAIRO, January 5th, 1862. }

I am instructed by General Grant to say to you that he has carefully read your communication with reference to the slave of Dr. Henderson and fully concurs in your view of the case.

While it is not the policy of the military arm of the government to ignore or in any manner interfere with the constitutional rights of loyal citizens, except when a military necessity makes individuals subservient to the public interests, it certainly is not the policy of our army to in any manner aid those who in any manner aid the enemy.

The slave, who is used to support the master, who supports the Rebellion, is not to be restored to the master by military authority. If such a master has a civil right to reclaim such property he must resort to the civil authorities to enforce that right.

The General commanding does not feel it his duty to feed the foe or in any manner contribute to their comfort.

If Dr. Henderson has given aid and comfort to the enemy, neither he nor his agents have any right to come *within our lines*, much less to invoke our aid and assistance for any purpose whatever.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WM. S. HILLYER,

Aid-de-camp.

Here follows a letter dictated by General Grant on a subject which has not yet been so effectually disposed of as slavery.

HEADQUARTERS DIST. S. E. MO. }
CAIRO, December, 2, 1861. }

Colonel.—I am directed by Brig. Gen. Grant to say your note of to-day is received. In the prohibition of the landing of merchandise in Missouri you will be governed by enclosed General Orders, No. 4, issued from Headquarters St. Louis Dist., St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 27, 1861. As to the great demand for whiskey he agrees with you, and is of the opinion the more whiskey they could get the better, but he has issued an order prohibiting the landing of boats or any merchandise whatever between Cape Girardeau and Bird's Point, except at Commerce, on the Missouri side in future, unless expressly commanded by the General commanding the department or commander of the district.

I am sir very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. RAWLINS,

To COL. L. F. ROSS,

Asst. Adjt. Gen.

Commanding Cape Girardeau, Mo.

By the end of January it became imperatively necessary for Colonel Ross to take a leave of absence on account of severe family affliction. He left Cape Girardeau January 30th, and returned to his home in Illinois, from whence he went east with an invalid son. On his return west through Albany, New York, had he needed inspiration for his part in the great drama then being enacted, he would have received it in listening to an oration there by Edward Everett on the war. On his return he had reached Gilman, a station on the Illinois Central Railroad, when he learned that his regiment had moved into Kentucky, and instead of visiting his home, as he had intended, he immediately changed his course for the front, and reaching Cairo on the 13th of February immediately took passage on the steamer Hannibal for Paducah. Learning here that his regiment was with General Grant near Fort Donelson, he went forward at once to join it, and reached the battle ground on the afternoon of the 15th, in time to take a conspicuous part in that glorious victory of the Union army. He was at once assigned to the command of a brigade composed of his own regiment, the 17th, and the 49th Illinois, and directed to report to General Lew Wallace at the front. It

was these two regiments with the 48th Illinois which the day before had made the unsuccessful assault on the enemy's lines. Had Colonel Ross been present at that time, it would have fallen to him as the ranking officer to lead the assault and perhaps to have received the wound with which Colonel Morrison of the 49th Illinois was honored. On reporting with his brigade to General Wallace, Colonel Ross was assigned by him to hold possession of a ridge to the left. The position was stubbornly held till after dark, though constantly swept by shot, shell and grape-shot, when he was ordered to withdraw to a position near General McClelland's headquarters.

Early on Sunday morning, the 16th, Colonel Ross called upon General McClelland for orders for the day, when he learned that there were signs of a surrender on the part of the confederates, which in reality soon followed. The whole Union army, about thirty thousand strong, marched inside the works and received the surrender of the garrison. The sight was grand and imposing in the extreme. Union flags were flying, bands playing, and thirty steamboats and gun-boats were in line on the river moving to take position above the Fort. Fifteen thousand prisoners were in line and in squads over the fields. It was indeed a grand sight and one seldom to be seen in a lifetime.

Colonel Ross with his command remained in the vicinity of Fort Donelson till the 4th of March. During this time many visitors came to them from the north, among them most of the governors from the western states, including Governor Yates of Illinois, to bring healing to the sick, balm to the wounded, and cheer and congratulations for all, and make them forget the cold, snow and winds of February. On this day, March 4th, Colonel Ross and his brigade started through muddy roads, almost impassable for wagons, on their march for the Tennessee river, which they reached on the 5th at Metal Landing, and on the 6th embarked on steamers for Savannah. Colonel Ross and the 17th Illinois with Carmichael's Cavalry company taking the Minnehaha, the 29th

Illinois the Champion, the 43d Illinois the Fort Wayne, and Schwartz's Battery the Alex. Scott. There was some delay in starting, but on March 9th they were at Apple Orchard Landing, ten miles above Fort Henry. Here his fleet lay to a short time while he, on the steamer Dunlieth, visited Fort Henry, taking with him Captain Barnard of the Confederate Army, a prisoner of war. At Fort Henry Colonel Ross met General Grant on a boat tied up at the Fort, and was by him informed that he, Grant, was under censure, why he knew not, and was to be left behind, and General Grant exhibited much feeling, not anger or resentment, but pain and dejection. Colonel Ross, in common with all others cognizant of the matter, felt that great injustice had been done General Grant, and on returning to his command, in conjunction with General McClermand and other officers, signed a note expressing sympathy and regret which was sent to General Grant. About March 14th Colonel Ross arrived with his brigade at Savannah, Tennessee, and debarked; on the 18th and 19th marched to Pinehook, twenty-five miles southeast, with all the cavalry of his division and four regiments of infantry, and thence a few miles to Martin's Mills, where he destroyed or distributed among^y the poor a large quantity of flour that had been ground for the Rebel Army; on the 20th he returned to Savannah, and on the 21st embarked his brigade on five steamboats for Pittsburg Landing with orders to report to General Smith. March 22d on arriving at Pittsburg Landing, General Smith being sick he reported to General Sherman, then in command. This General was at the time occupying a cabin near the landing, where, it being only five o'clock in the morning, he was lying in bed, from which he rose and in his off-hand way marked out on the floor the lay of the land, and directed Colonel Ross to go out and select his own encampment. Colonel Ross's Brigade at this time consisted of the 17th, 29th, 43d and 49th Illinois, Taylor's and Schwartz's Batteries, and Carmichael's Company of Cavalry. The ground chosen by him for his camp was that afterwards occupied by General

McClermand's Division during the battle of Shiloh, April 6th and 7th.

On the 23d of March Colonel Ross, while there in camp, by the intelligence of the death of his wife at home, received a blow which, if not directly from the hand of Providence, would be accounted under all the circumstances, most cruel. His family then consisted of five children, the oldest a boy of fourteen and a confirmed invalid, the youngest an infant but nine months old. To him, thus situated, a leave of absence to return home was absolutely imperative, and it was granted by General Grant, who by this time had arrived and taken command. On the 26th he started on his melancholy errand to make provision for the care of his motherless children, and on the 30th reached his desolate home at Lewiston. April 3d, having hurriedly made arrangements for the care of his children, he was on his way back to the front, by steamboat from Havana to St. Louis by the 4th, and from here on the 5th by the steamer J. C. Swan for the Tennessee river. On the 6th he was at Cairo, and on the 7th at Paducah, where he was met by vague reports of "skirmishing at Pittsburg Landing on the 6th." On the 8th at Fort Henry he learned the truth of a great battle at Shiloh, and on the 9th was on the battle ground, where many of the dead were yet unburied. On reporting to Generals Grant and McClermand he was assigned to the command of the brigade he had left, which in the battle had been commanded by Colonel Raith of the 43d Illinois, who was mortally wounded and died soon after Colonel Ross's return. On the 24th Colonel Ross with his brigade, now strengthened by the addition of the 61st Illinois, moved three miles from Camp McClermand to a position named Camp Stanton, five miles southeast of Pittsburg Landing. This last move he was compelled on account of illness to make by ambulance, and a few days afterward had to absent himself from his command in the hospital boat on the river. On the 30th, on his return to his brigade, he found it eight miles from the landing on the road to Corinth. May 4th he moved within one mile of

Monterey, his brigade being now attached to Brigadier General Judah's Division. May 7th, being now in temporary command of the division, he held a review, at which Governor Yates and other civilians were present. On May 11th he moved forward and encamped within seven miles of Corinth, his brigade forming the extreme right of the besieging army. On the 13th at this latter camp he received his commission as Brigadier General, in which capacity he had long been acting. From this time forward till the rebels stole out of Corinth, General Ross's brigade, with the rest of the army under General Halleck, was employed chiefly in making changes of camp. On the 19th he made an expedition to the west and destroyed part of a railroad, and on the 30th, having about day-break, visited his fortifications four miles from Corinth, taken a dense smoke over the city and heavy explosions to be signs of evacuation by the enemy, reported the same to General Sherman. The next day on entering Corinth with Generals McClelland and Logan the place was found to be abandoned.

After a short leave of absence General Ross again returned to the command of his old brigade, with the 12th Michigan added to it, and now designated as the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, and on the 18th of July took command of all the forces at Bolivar, and made arrangements for fortifying the place, in which he was greatly aided by the slaves from neighboring plantations, which occupied the time up to August 18th.

August 27th General Ross was ordered to report at Jackson, Tennessee, having been assigned to the command of a district with headquarters there. On the 30th, receiving a dispatch from Colonel Crocker commanding the Iowa Brigade at Bolivar, that that place was threatened with attack—then that fighting had commenced—he immediately repaired there by train, but returned the next day, after the enemy had retired with a loss of one hundred, the Union side losing only one-fourth that number. Before leaving Bolivar he sent a dispatch to Colonel Dennis on the Estenaula, about twenty

miles northwest of Bolivar, who had about eight hundred troops, to move north to Jackson. General Ross had barely got over the railroad and back to his headquarters at Jackson when the enemy seized the railroad, fired some bridges, and were moving on Medon with a large force, but General Ross headed them off with reinforcements under Lieutenant Colonel Oliver, and by orders to Colonel Dennis to change his course for the same place and attack the enemy in rear. These foresighted directions had a happy issue. The confederates were handsomely repulsed at Medon with the loss of about one hundred, and were in full retreat west toward Denmark, when on the following morning, September 1st, Colonel Dennis met their cavalry advance and at once chose a favorable position. A few rounds of artillery being discharged at them, they charged upon and captured both the cannon. They then made six successive charges on Colonel Dennis's little force, but each time were repulsed with great slaughter, their loss in killed being over one hundred, Colonel Dennis coming off victor in the engagement, which is known to history as the Battle of Britton's Lane. The Union loss was five killed and fifty-one wounded. General Logan having returned and taken command at Jackson on the 3d of September, on the 8th General Ross went again to Bolivar to take command there, and took possession of Dunlap's Springs for hospital purposes. September 14th General Hurlbut having arrived at Bolivar with his division, General Ross was ordered to Corinth where he arrived the 15th with the 1st and 2d Brigades and was assigned to General Ord's command, and encamped the next day three miles east of Corinth. On the 17th he marched his division to Burnsville, where the next day Generals Grant, Hackleman, McPherson and McArthur arrived. Here Colonel Laggett's Brigade of General Ross's Division was sent out to reconnoitre.

On the 19th a dense smoke having been discovered in the direction of Iuka led to the belief that that place was being evacuated by the enemy, and General Ross was ordered for-

ward at five o'clock in the evening. He marched till darkness overtook his command and then went into camp four miles from Iuka, and the next day learned that the battle had been fought the evening before on the opposite side of the city by General Rosecrans, and that General Price, with the rebel army, was in retreat. On this day (the 20th) General Ross entered Iuka in the forenoon, and marched on to return to Corinth.

September 22d General Ross was ordered back again to Bolivar, when all the troops there were reviewed by General Hurlbut on the 27th, and on the 4th of October he moved toward Corinth. General Ord arrived the same evening and left for Pocahontas the next day (the 5th). Hearing cannonading on the 5th in the direction of Pocahontas, General Ross telegraphed this fact to General Grant, who, in reply, directed him to move out, which he did with alacrity, and on the afternoon of the 6th reached the battle-ground of the Hatchie. He returned to Bolivar on the 9th, and moved his division to Grand Junction and LaGrange.

On the 10th he again returned to Bolivar, and taking advantage of the lull in military operations, obtained a leave of absence from the Secretary of War to visit his stricken home, with permission to leave on the arrival of General McPherson to take his place. On the 14th he left Bolivar for Jackson, and thence to his home.

November 6th General Ross had again returned to Bolivar, and reported to General Grant, then at LaGrange. He received orders to report at Lagrange to General Hamilton, who had been given command of the right wing of the army then organizing to move south through Central Mississippi, and was assigned to the command of the division lately under General Stanley. The march soon began. November 12th General Ross led his division three miles south of Grand Junction, and on the 17th established his headquarters at Davis's Mills, which he set to work grinding flour for his troops, and where he received many refugees from the south.

On the 28th he marched fourteen miles and camped at Cold Water, and on the 29th rested at Lumkin's Mills, seven miles south of Holly Springs. December 4th he was at Waterford, on the 10th in the vicinity of Abbeville; the 11th he marched to Oxford and encamped two miles southeast of town, where he received orders to at once move his division north. The next day he was back to Holly Springs.

General Ross remained in this vicinity till January 21st, when he received orders from General Grant to turn over the command of his division to General Smith and with his staff to join General Grant at Memphis. These were acceptable orders to General Ross, as they presaged active duty in the environs of Vicksburg. On the 23d he was at Memphis, and on the 27th was on board the steamer Magnolia with General Grant and his staff, bound south. Arriving at Milliken's Bend on the 28th, and the next day at Young's Point, he was ordered to report to General McClelland, establishing his headquarters on the steamer Hiawatha near Vicksburg.

Having received orders to take command of forces at Helena, General Prentiss being in command of this post, he arrived there on the 11th of February, and on the 13th assumed command of the 13th Division.

February 18th he received orders to get ready to move with his command, the 13th Division, into the Yazoo Pass to co-operate with a fleet of gun-boats. His force consisted of nine regiments of infantry and one light field battery. On the 24th the troops embarked at Helena on thirteen transports, the gun-boats Chillicothe and DeKalb taking the advance. Owing to the bad condition of the transports, which were constantly requiring repair, and the encumbrance of coal barges which the gun-boats towed along, the progress of the expedition, especially for the first few days, was very slow. The naval officer in command of the gun-boats could not be prevailed upon by General Ross to leave his barges temporarily behind under a strong infantry guard which the military commander offered to furnish, and push forward one or more gun-

boats to Greenwood, at the confluence of the Yallabusha and Tallahatchie rivers, which was the objective point of the expedition, before the Confederates could concentrate and fortify there. On the 2d of March however, the entire command got into the Cold Water, a tributary of the Tallahatchie, which was lined on either side by dense forests and canebrakes, and on March 6th steamed into the Tallahatchie. The progress of the expedition was not seriously opposed by the enemy till they reached a point on the 11th of March three miles above the mouth of the Tallahatchie, where the rebels had fortified a well chosen position, which they called Fort Pemberton, situated near the town of Greenwood. On account of the overflowed condition of the banks of the river it was impossible to attack the fort with infantry.

At five o'clock in the evening the attack on the fort was begun by the gun-boat Chillicothe, which was soon considerably damaged by the fire of the enemy, and was obliged to haul off. General Ross now erected a battery on shore and placed in it two thirty-pound Parrot guns. On the 13th he engaged the enemy again, the land battery co-operating with the gun-boats. The Chillicothe was soon disabled, but the fight was gallantly continued with the DeKalb, a mortar boat and the land battery. March 15th the land battery was strengthened with an eight-inch howitzer. On the 16th the 33d Missouri and 28th Wisconsin were ordered to assault and capture the fort should its guns be silenced by the land and water batteries. The land battery opened fire at noon, the Chillicothe soon after. In fifteen minutes after the action began the Chillicothe had been struck six times, and was disabled and withdrawn. The land battery obstinately continued the engagement till sunset, but without being able to seriously damage the guns of the fort. March 21st General Quinby having arrived and taken command, the effort to reduce the fort was ineffectually persevered in till April 5th, when the attempt was abandoned and the expeditionary force returned to Helena, where they arrived on the 8th.

April 9th found General Ross again in command of all the troops at and around Helena, and on the 12th he assumed command of the Post of Helena also. He spent the time from this up to the following June in reconnoitering the surrounding country, instituting regular target practice, drilling and reviewing his troops, blocking up the roads by felling timber as a means of defense against possible forays by the enemy, and penetrating the surrounding country with scouting expeditions, in one of which the Union forces had a severe skirmish with the rebels, under Colonel Dobbins, themselves losing four killed and fifteen wounded, while the Confederates suffered a heavy loss. He also devoted much of the time of the troops to the erection of fortifications which proved of inestimable value to the Union forces when the rebels attacked the place some weeks later and the bloody battle of Helena was fought, terminating so gloriously for the Union arms.

It now again became imperatively necessary for him to return home on a short leave, and on June 2d he started, returning July 6th, and the next day was assigned to the command of the troops there again.

The troops at Helena had a grand celebration on the 8th in honor of the fall of Vicksburg, which they had done so much to secure, though not immediately participating in the siege of that place. On July 9th he was assigned to the command of the District of Eastern Arkansas, which was the last command General Ross held in the army.

The Mississippi river, the great natural thoroughfare of the country, was now open and could be navigated to the mouth. The ultimate success of the Union arms was assured, and it seemed the war must soon come to a close. With these feelings of confidence in the future of that cause he had done so much to support and advance, under the pressure of urgent demands from home for his presence there, he tendered the resignation of his commission. This had been done before on account of the helpless condition of his children, but it seemed impossible then that his services could be spared.

Now, the situation being different, his urgent request was acceded to, and his resignation was accepted, and on August 2d he parted with his army comrades with much regret, became again a private citizen, feeling that only by leaving the army could he do his duty to those dependent upon him.

General Ross returned to his home at Lewiston, September 9th. He soon became engaged in business and in farming. Before the close of the war he made several visits in the south to some of the points his previous military service had brought him to, where he enjoyed reunion with former army comrades, and for a short time was connected in business with the firm of Bland, Ross & Kimball, and acted as a financial agent of the firm of E. Parkman & Co., all of Memphis, Tenn.

January 10th, 1865, at Monroeville, Ohio, General Ross was married to Mary E. Warren, with whom he returned to their home at Lewiston. In 1866 he removed from Lewiston to his farm at Avon, also in Fulton county, and devoted his time principally to stock raising. While thus engaged in 1867, without his knowledge President Johnson appointed him Collector of Internal Revenue. In 1868 he was nominated by the Republicans as a candidate for Congress, but the Democrats being largely in the ascendancy in the district he was defeated.

In 1869 General Ross resigned the office of Internal Revenue Collector in order to devote all his time to stock raising. His enterprise in this direction is indicated by his introducing in Fulton County, the year before in company with Mr. H. V. D. Voorhees, the first Norman horse brought into that county, and subsequently his introduction into that part of the country of fine specimens of Devon cattle. Whatever would tend to promote the interests of agriculture in its various departments he has always favored. He assisted in forming the Avon District Agricultural Society and was its first president.

In politics General Ross, while always advocating the essential doctrines of the Republican party, supporting the

Republican nominees at every presidential election, has constantly maintained an independent political demeanor. In 1872 he served as a delegate at large from Illinois in the Republican National Convention at Philadelphia, which nominated General Grant for a second term. Yet, in the passage of the law by Congress granting back-pay to congressmen and upon the "Credit Mobilier" revelations, he did not chord with his party, but attached himself for the time being to the "Independents," and in 1874 became the nominee for Congress of the independent elements of both the Democratic and Republican parties, but as the Republican party, by a reorganization of the district through the censns of 1870 had great numerical superiority, he failed of an election by 260 votes in a total poll of 19,250. He is now in accord with the Republican party.

In 1872 and again in 1882 General Ross visited California. In 1882 he removed from Avon in Illinois to Iowa City in this state, where on his beautiful stock farm adjoining the city he has ever since, except during a short business visit to England in 1883, been engaged in the breeding and importation of Red Polled cattle, bringing the first of this strain of cattle into the State of Iowa, as he had in 1880 introduced them first into the State of Illinois.

From the tributes we have to the ability, gallantry and generosity of General Ross, and showing the affection with which his officers and soldiers regarded him, a few extracts are here made, want of space debarring the letters entire.

Mr. Marvin Scudder of Kansas City, Missouri, who was the Orderly Sergeant of Company K, 4th Illinois, which served in the Mexican War, says: "Rank did not lift him above his old associates, and only in the performance of duty did he assume any superior authority. True to the characteristics of a true soldier, he shirked no duty, evaded no responsibility, shrank from no danger, and as he was a rigid disciplinarian over himself he was a strict disciplinarian over the company; still all was done in a spirit which plainly showed that it was not done to show his authority, but that he

was proud of his men, and the honor and good of his company was the inspiring motive of every requirement. I do not think there was a man in Company K who did not bear with him from the service fond recollections of many acts of kindness and favors received at the hands of Lieutenant Ross."

Colonel A. H. Ryan of East Orange, New Jersey, who served on the staff of General Ross as assistant adjutant-general, and was afterward colonel of the 3d Arkansas Cavalry, says: "As a military man I think General Ross had few superiors, if any, of his rank in the army. I say this after having seen him tried in every way, in camp, on the march, on post duty, and in battle. In the battle of Fredericktown, Missouri, October, 1861, as colonel commanding, he displayed commanding ability and judgment; completely defeating his adversary, General Jeff. Thompson. From this time until July, 1863, and particularly in Grant's various approaches to Vicksburg, General Ross always held important and responsible commands, as post, brigade or division commander. From Fort Donelson to Pittsburg Landing he commanded the advance brigade of McClernand's Division, selecting the camping ground of the whole division, upon what afterward proved to be historic ground, the battle-field of Shiloh. In the spring of 1863, General Grant assigned him to the Yazo Pass Expedition, one of the most intricate and perilous of the many approaches to Vicksburg, and in which General Ross succeeded in cutting his way through the Pass into the Tallahatchie river. He never to my knowledge did an unsoldierly act. He was kind and gentle, but firm in the discharge of his official duty. Intrepid and brave in action, he was ever a true and gallant soldier; a high-toned, kind-hearted gentleman, he did honor to every position and command held by him while in the service. Ever watchful of his men in camp, on the march, on the battle-field, or in the hospital, caring for their welfare in every way, he greatly endeared himself to them, and I know he still retains their love and respect, and will while one of them lives."

Captain M. S. Kimball, of Springfield, Illinois, who also was a member of General Ross's staff, writes: "General Ross is a grand man, and was a gallant soldier, loved and honored by all who had the pleasure of being associated with him."

As before stated, General Ross removed in 1882 to Iowa City, where he has since resided, a liberal, public-spirited and honored citizen. Inadequacy of space has compelled the abridgment of this sketch, and forbids the writer dwelling upon the excellencies of the character of his subject. In the ancient time General Ross would have been a prophet, in the middle ages a knight, and now, in the old world such a man would be ranked with the nobility.

AN OLD SETTLER'S ADDRESS.



THE following is the body of the eloquent address of the Hon. Jas. H. Matheny of Illinois, before the Tri-State Old Settlers's Reunion at Keokuk, August 30, 1887.

My friends, we are all here to-day to celebrate an old settlers' meeting, and you young friends must pardon us if we love to linger over the happenings of the past. There is something about the old cabin, the old fire-place, and the old spinning wheel that we old fellows can't forget. I don't propose, for one, to try to forget them. Not that they would do now. Not that they would suit this advanced age, by any means, but still the old memories that cluster around the old homes and the old times, when many of you were boys and girls, are exceedingly pleasant recollections and you must forgive us if we talk of these that we all once loved. I was born in this state—no not in this, this is Iowa, but in Illinois. I was born just thirty days before the State of Illinois, and I have been a part and parcel of that state from that day to this. I have watched its wondrous advance—

taken part in its growth and all that constitutes the glory and grandeur of that state. I remember it when there was no more than 25,000 people in it, and now there is largely over 3,500,000. The toils and the struggles endured by that people can never be described. They have advanced since those days at a rate that has been extraordinary. Their changes have been simply wonderful. In all the great avocations of life there is no comparison now with what they were then.

One of the greatest changes is in this very thing that we are doing here to-day. My friend Craig and others here remember how it used to be about public speaking. When I was a boy a good stump orator was a king. And why? For the simple reason that the great mass of the people were ignorant, if I may use that expression. There were no schools then and no newspapers for the great mass of the people. There was no mode of obtaining information except when some one, who had better opportunities, would take the stand and tell the people what he thought. The stump orator was a king then, but he is no longer. The newspaper rules in his stead.

It tires me sometimes, over there in Illinois, at our great political gatherings. We have great mass meetings over there, of course, in advocacy of some great position or interest. And what are they? Nothing but a flaunting of banners; the braying of brass instruments; the senseless marchings; the flashing of torchlights, and the infernal hiss of the torpedoes. What about the speaker? He is a mere appendage—the clown in the circus or the mountebank in the show. Nobody listens to him nor cares much what he says, knowing full well that if it is worth repeating, the morning papers will give it in full. The scenes on such occasions are painfully amusing. See the orator mount the platform, “his eye in a fine frenzy rolling,” his bosom swelling with patriotic emotion and his mind o’erburdened with grand and glorious thoughts. See him pound the air in frantic energy; howl out his “grand

thoughts" with increasing fury, in the vain attempt to rise above the rush and roar around him and at the last ingloriously subside amid the dolorous groanings of the bass drum and the scream of the "ear-piercing fife."

But it is better now. It is a good change. The people are all becoming intelligent, and you could not humbug them now if you wanted to. The merchant will lay down his yard stick and talk to you learnedly about the silver question. The mechanic comes home and delves deep into the mysteries of the tariff. The farmer comes to town with his wheat and he goes home with a lot of newspapers. This is a glorious change. There are a thousand other advances that I might refer to, that will show to you, my friends, how favored you ought to consider yourselves that you are living in this age of wonderful advancement. One thing I was reminded of today that struck me quite forcibly. Manners have changed so. We have changed in the matter of sociability. This is commendable. I am told that I am in a prohibition state when I get over here in Iowa, but I don't believe I would have thought it in walking up the streets of Keokuk.

You would be truly shocked to hear what took place over in Springfield not a great many years ago. One neighbor over there went to another who was a good old deacon in one of the leading churches and told him he wanted to borrow a gallon or two of whiskey. "No," says the deacon, "I can't let you have any for we are going to have prayer meeting to-night and we will need every drop." That old deacon was a good man, but he had not advanced far enough to know that he was dabbling with what was harmful.

Another advancement. Take the great question of education. How wondrous is the change in that particular! Why, as I told you before, and I may refer to it again, when I was a boy there was no such thing as going to school at all. I never went to school any. What little learning I got I took by absorption.

We had a schoolmaster or two, possibly three or four, before

I went out to work. You see I had to go to work early. My father was poor and I have managed to follow in his footsteps. We did have occasionally a broken-down Yankee come along that way out of money who would take up a subscription school so as to get enough money to take him back east. They could make impressions on our backs but very few on our brains.

But, as you have heard to-day, the country now is dotted over with school-houses, and no wonder that this American people, East and West, are giving birth to the wondrous enterprises that are astonishing the world. No wonder that the telephone and the telegraph and the railroads that are bearing the commerce of the country, are here. Why? Because the intelligence of the world is at work greater than ever before. Again, in the mode of living what an advance? When I was a boy, 10, 12, 14 and 15 years old, suppose you went to a meeting of any sort, and what would you see? Not such people, such faces as I see now. Not such bright eyes and pictures of physical health. Pale, sallow-complexioned women, and why? Because of the thousand exposures and privations. And then they didn't know how to live.

I have thought a good deal about mental development in making a great people, but you must first see to the physical development and then the mental if possible, and the advance of this Western people is greater in nothing than it is in the manner of living. I don't know so well how it is over here in Iowa, but I know that in Illinois if I go to one of these picnics I will find myself invited (and I always look out for that) to help eat as fine a dinner with all the delicacies and fine cooking, the pies, the cakes, the bread, as can be found at any hotel in Chicago.

People in this Western country have found out how to live. The school-master is so enlarging the brain of this people that in a generation or two the sun will shine on no such people as inhabit this Western land of ours. We are a wonderful people. We are a mixture, and I have faith in what we will be and in

humanity in general. I believe the Almighty when He made man and looked on His work and pronounced it good, knew what He was talking about. You hear some people growling about the world not growing any better—about its growing worse; never a thing going right, always something going wrong.

I believe in no such nonsense. The world is getting better every way—physically, intellectually and morally. Better in everything just as God intended it should do. I have no patience with those eternal growlers. I was over in Indiana once and I learned a lesson from a little girl over there. I had just got home from the army where I wasn't killed. I am sorry I said that, but I want you to understand I wasn't killed. However, I had got home and all I had was a mortgage over in Indiana put in the hands of a lawyer to foreclose. I had borrowed enough money to get over there and try to collect what was coming to me, but when I got there I found the lawyer had foreclosed, collected the money and spent it. He was broke up and I didn't get a cent. If ever a mortal had the blues, I had them. I started home and I had twenty-five miles to ride in the stage to get to the railroad. Along in some of that beech-woods a little girl got in. We finally went down a long hill where the trees were so thick they made it dark. Just along where the trees were the thickest and the shadows the deepest, the little girl commenced to get out. And I says to her, "you don't live down here in the dark, do you?" She answers, "yes, I make my own sunshine."

So I say to you all, "make your own sunshine and you won't be growling so much." You don't at all know what the old-timers suffered fifty or sixty years ago, and I hope you will never know. You have a perfect paradise to what they had. You have your pleasant mode of travel, your fine horses and your spring wagons; your daughters to play on the piano, and your good wife there to take care of you. No music did those old-time fellows hear more than the music of a crying child.

That was the music they had. You have everything to be thankful for. You and I have heard to-day from our friend Craig that it is only an imaginary line dividing Iowa and Illinois, and I know we are all very friendly, though you growl occasionally, I suppose, as we do over there.

But compare your condition with that of your predecessors and you will then see that you ought not to complain but that you ought to send up one continual prayer of thankfulness for your manifold blessings. We have the best country in the world, not only in a political aspect, but in its social and moral aspects. In this country there is no man that need ever hear his children crying for bread; who can not make a living for his wife and children and for himself if he will? Of course if he wastes his time and drinks it up, such a thing may happen, but in this land of ours no one need ever hear his children cry for bread. That is not always so in other countries. There are people in other countries who can't make a living, who are crushed out by tyrannical government, but that is not true here. No man here upon whom God's bright sunshine falls, who has his hands and his strength with which to labor, but can have the common blessings of life.

For this you ought to be thankful, and a song of unceasing thankfulness go up to the Grand Master instead of the growling of some people who seem to want the whole earth. Those old-timers of fifty and sixty years ago had but one wish, that was to make their wives and their babies a home. They had no political ambition, which is too much the case now with many people. Every man should be a politician to a certain extent—old settlers and young—enough to enable them to perform their duties to their country. But too many run wild about power and place in this country. I was a pretty good mechanic, and they made a poor judge out of what might have been a good carpenter. There is too much of that sort of disposition in this country, and it would be well for us all to try to correct that sort of spirit.

“How like the roaring devil, is the heart full of ambition!”

Another thing that I might speak of as among the wondrous changes. And I know of no better place to speak of it than this. That is the spirit of resistance to law. What is law? You can not see it. You can not touch it, and yet it is the guardian angel that is to-day hovering over your homes protecting all you love from pillage and violence. It is the invisible power of law. There is a spirit growing abroad in the world that is disregarding the law; that is inclined to trample down this grand superstructure built by you. It is for the young men to guard this grand temple of legalized human freedom with the same sacred fidelity that your fathers have.

We have a grand country that reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the colder regions of the North to the burning sands of the South, and yet as broad as it is it is not big enough for more than one flag to float in it.

There is no room for the red flag of anarchy. The star-spangled banner is big enough to reach from the north to the south, from the east to the west. When the black flag of treason was reared in the South all men, without creed or distinction, without a moment's hesitation rushed to the rescue of the old flag. And now that another is being raised in this country I warn you whenever the time comes for you to act to trample that flag in the dust just as the Northern heroes trampled the Southern flag.

I have reason to be proud of this country—I love it. And I will tell you why I love it. I love it because it recognizes no grades or distinctions among men. I love it because the ways to power and distinction are open alike to the poor man's son as well as the rich man's. I love it because my boys, if they have the strength and courage, can win its honor as well as the man's boys whose wealth groans in bank vaults. My boys will get nothing from me. They learned that long ago. I have come to the conclusion that the best way for a man to do is to spend his last dollar in paying for his funeral services. If you leave thousands of dollars for your children they will

quarrel over it and not thank you for your pains in saving it. I learned that lesson long ago and am trying to follow it out. I want my boys to have the same chance that I had; I want them to have the same government to grow up in that I had, and I trust and believe that they will. I never exactly understood what the word patriotism meant. I never understood fighting for an abstraction. Love of country! I love this country because it protected Susan and the babies at home when I was away, and I would not have loved it if it had allowed them to be trampled upon. You love that country that you can rely upon and trust. We have got that sort of a country.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

THE family of the Hon. Charles T. Ransom, who died on the 5th of last April, have reprinted for private distribution, in a handsome miniature volume, some of the previously published notices referring to the death of this eminent member of the Iowa Bar. Its contents are composed of the beautiful tribute which appeared in the *State Press*, the resolutions of regret adopted by the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society, (of which Mr. Ransom at the time of his death was a member,) and the Board of Regents of the State University, and memorial resolutions and other proceedings of the Johnson County Bar, of the Supreme Court of Iowa, and of the U. S. District Court for Iowa.

“BETTER DEAD THAN HOMELESS,” by W. H. Michael,—founded on fact—Washington, D. C., Brodix Publishing Co., 1888. This is a well written fictitious work with a political bent, designed to exemplify the benefits of a protective tariff. Captain Michael, the author, as a stripling was a brave volunteer from Iowa during the war, first serving as a soldier in the 11th Iowa, and afterwards as a commissioned officer in the navy, to which he was transferred from the army. After the

war, upon completing his studies in the Iowa State University, he had an experience in journalism as the editor of an Iowa political newspaper before removing to Grand Island, Neb., his present home, and engaging in the practice of law. On the death of Ben: Perley Poore, he became the worthy successor of that scholarly writer in the official position at Washington which assigns to him the compilation of the Congressional Directory. We are happy to be able to promise some contributions from his pen to the RECORD.

PROCEEDINGS of Crocker's Iowa Brigade at the fourth reunion, held at Davenport, Iowa, Wednesday and Thursday, September 21st and 22d, 1887, is a neat pamphlet of 129 pages from the press of Egbert, Fidler & Chambers, of Davenport, for the compilation of which credit is due to the excellent literary taste of the Recording Secretary, Capt. John H. Munroe, who was a gallant soldier of the 11th Iowa.

RECENT DEATHS.

MAJOR PETER MILLER, late of the 16th Iowa Vols., in a fit of depondency last September, died by his own hand, in New York City. Major Miller was born of German parents in Michigan, and was about fifty years of age. He assisted in raising Company F of the 16th, of which he became successively Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, and Captain, and finally at the close of the war was promoted Major of his regiment. His remains, at his request, were buried beside his parents, at Ypsilanti, Mich., his former home. Major Miller while in the service was unremittingly at his post of duty, and had such spirits that he was gay when others drooped, and with voluble speech and hearty laugh made the camp ring. After attaining his majority he was the youngest officer of his rank of Crocker's Iowa Brigade, and one of the bravest, most generous, and most popular of that heroic body of veterans.

COLONEL JOHN A. GRAHAM, formerly a resident of Keokuk, Iowa, of which city he had been mayor in the old pioneer

days, died at Washington, D. C., on the 22d day of last April, in the fullness of ninety years, For the last twenty-seven years of his life Colonel Graham had been a resident of Washington City, and from 1861 to 1876 was an officer in the Register's office of the United States Treasury Department. Before coming to Iowa his home had been in Merrick County, Indiana, where for twenty-one years he had been Clerk of the County Court.

OZIAH PHELPS WATERS died at his home in Burlington, Iowa, on the 28th of last June, aged fifty-eight years. He was Past Grand Master of Masons in Iowa, and Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar, and was a most worthy exponent of this beneficent Order. At the time of his death he was the chief representative in Iowa of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

NOTES.

MR. C. F. DAVIS, of Keokuk, some time ago at his own expense erected a monument to the Indian Chief Keokuk, which stands in the park on the Mississippi river bluff just north of the city which was named after this celebrated Indian.

SOME provisions should be made, as is well suggested by a writer in the *Des Moines Register* lately, by the legislature at its next session looking to the purchase and preservation of valuable relics of the late war associated with the names of distinguished soldiers from our state. The sword of Gen. Marcellus M. Crocker is mentioned as a typical representative of the class of articles referred to. From the heroism of the man who unsheathed it in the cause of the Union it reflects a lustre upon the whole state. Propriety forbids a solicitation of it as a donation to the rich commonwealth of Iowa from his meagerly pensioned widow, but a proffer of its purchase would be an honorable proceeding on the part of the state, which should preserve it as one of its most precious relics of the civil war.



James Lee